

ABSTRACT

An image forming apparatus develops a latent image formed on an image carrier with a developer that forms a magnet brush on a developer carrier. The developer carrier is made up of a sleeve and a stationary magnet roller accommodated in the sleeve. The magnet roller includes a main pole for causing the developer to form the magnet brush and auxiliary poles for helping the main pole exert a magnetic force. An electric field including an oscillation component is formed between the image carrier and the developer carrier. A particular ratio is set up between a distance between the image carrier and the developer carrier, as measured at the boundary of a nip, and the shortest distance between them, between the above shortest distance and the shortest distance between the developer carrier and a metering member, or between the shortest distance between the image carrier and the developer carrier and the amount of developer scooped up to the image carrier.